



Protecting Children by Strengthening Families

Media Release

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Children Services Celebrates *National Adoption Month* throughout November

November is "*National Adoption Month*," and Franklin County Children Services will celebrate with several activities. Central Ohio will first recognize National Adoption Day on November 10, when Franklin County Probate Judge Lawrence Belskis and his staff of magistrates finalize the adoptions of 20 beautiful children, ranging in ages from one to 17, by 11 loving adoptive families. The celebration will begin at 1 p.m. at the Franklin County Courthouse, 373 S. High St. 22nd floor in Columbus. For this joyful occasion, Franklin County Children Services will be joined by Capital University's National Center for Adoption Law and Policy, The Dave Thomas Foundation, Wendy's and Nationwide.

Local observance of National Adoption Month continues with Franklin County Children Services' premiere of an original docudrama entitled, "*Portraits of A Child, Lives on Canvas*," on November 13 at the Southern Theatre, 21 E. Main Street in Columbus. Doors will open at 6 p.m. This free production will showcase the talents of award-winning painter and performer Darrin Hoover, under the artistic direction of 5 Stones Media. This multi-media stage experience will weave the true-life stories of three remarkable people, as Hoover creates grand scale images on canvas. The docudrama is an original piece written by Children Services employee, Troy Lindsey. According to Lindsey, the multi-sensory experience will influence the community's perception of children involved with various stages of the welfare system, including foster and adoption. The evening will conclude with the distribution of the 2009 All Kids Count Foster and Adoption calendar. This calendar celebrates 13 adoptable children currently under the care of Children Services and features 12 inspiring foster and adoptive families. The complimentary calendars are available for distribution throughout the year.

Also in recognition of families this month, Children Services will celebrate, "*National Family Week*," on November 20 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Salvation Army, 966 East Main Street in Columbus. This event will honor five community families who have worked to keep their families together as well as seven community leaders who have tirelessly advocated and supported families in the city of Columbus.

For more information about Franklin County Children Service's National Adoption Month events, National Family Week celebration or to receive your complimentary copy of the 2009 All Kids Count Foster and Adoption Calendar, call (614) 341-6060.

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For further
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